

REMARKS

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation that the Examiner indicates that claims 22, 30, 35, 37, 39, and 41-43 would be allowable if rewritten in independent format, including the limitations of their base claim and any intervening claims, and that claims 25-27, 31, and 32 would be allowable if dependent claim 23 is rewritten to overcome the indefiniteness rejection of dependent claim 23. Applicants are amending claims 20, 22-25, 27, and 29, and are canceling claims 21, 26, and 29-43, without prejudice to the subject matter claimed thereby. Therefore, claims 20, 22-25, 27, and 28 currently are pending in the above-captioned patent application and are subject to examination. No new matter is added by the foregoing amendments, and these amendments are fully supported by the specification. Reconsideration of the above-captioned patent application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

The Examiner rejected claim 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶2, as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicant regards as the claimed invention. Specifically, the Examiner asserts that it is unclear whether the Applicant is claiming that all or only one of the intensity images, intensity contour, color contour, intensity outline, and time base fluctuation are obtained. Applicants have amended claim 23, and respectfully submit that amended claim 23 is definite. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the indefiniteness rejection of claim 23.

The Examiner also rejected claims 20, 21, 23, 24, 27-29, 33, 34, 36, 38, and 40 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,820,046

to Sohma *et al.* ("Sohma"). Moreover, the Examiner rejected claim 32 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as allegedly being rendered obvious by Sohma in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,050,992 to Drummond *et al.* ("Drummond"). To the extent that these rejections remain applicable in view of the foregoing amendments, Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections, as follows.

Applicant has canceled claims 21, 29, 32-34, 36, 38, and 40. Therefore, the rejection of claims 21, 29, 32-34, 36, 38, and 40 is rendered moot.

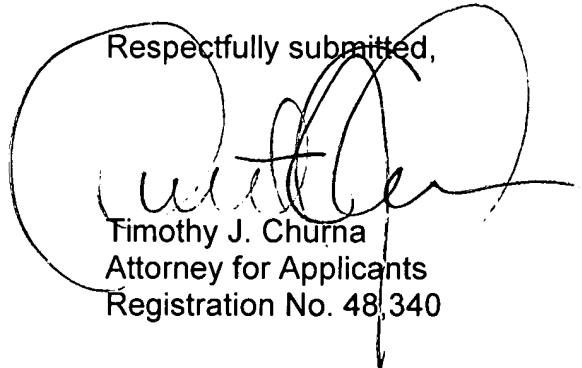
Applicants have amended independent claim 20 to include the limitations of original claim 26, which the Examiner indicated would be allowable. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the anticipation rejection of claim 20 at least for this reason.

Applicants also have amended claim 25 to be an independent claim, and amended, independent claim 25 is the combination of original claims 32 and 35, which the Examiner indicated would be allowable.

Claims 23, 24, and 27-29 depend from allowable independent claims 20 and 25, respectively. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the anticipation rejection of claims 23, 24, and 27-29 at least for this reason.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that the above-captioned patent application is in condition for allowance, and such action is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that an in-person or telephonic interview with Applicants' representatives would expedite the prosecution of the above-captioned patent application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney of records. Applicants believe that no fees are due as a result of this submission. Nevertheless, in the event of any variance between the fees determined by Applicants and those determined by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, please charge any such variance to the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 01-2300.

Respectfully submitted,

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